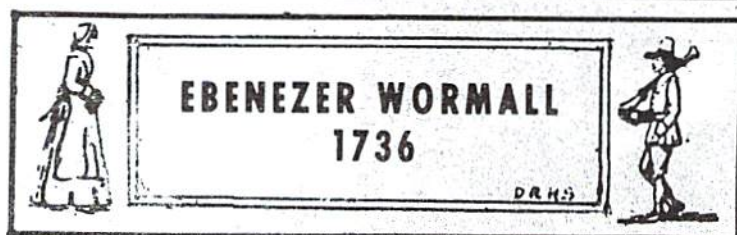


Historical houses - NAMED, M-Z

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, March 18, 1971



In 1733 James Glass, Yeoman and Mercy Glass, Spinster, deeded to Nathaniel Chandler, for eight pounds, a tract of land adjacent to his "new" house. For some reason, Chandler, soon after in 1736, decided to dispose of this land and conveyed it to Ebenezer Wormall.

The Wormall's are recorded as having lived in Scituate as early as 1638. The younger members of the family moved to Duxbury around 1670. Ebenezer married an Elizabeth Briggs in 1717 and had three children, Kezia, Betty and Abiah. The family owned and occupied the property until 1748.

The house consists of three parts, the front section being the oldest. With the need for more elbow room, the second section was soon added. This addition was probably a school house, pegged to the front or original part. At a town meeting in Duxbury in 1737, the town voted "to give their school house to Ebenezer Wormall." Another addition eventually was needed, and an ell of some other house was moved up and also pegged to the sills, resulting in a two story "hump" on the rear end.

Ebenezer was evidently a dedicated farmer. A barn much larger and more imposing than the house stands near by, for the needs of his cattle and forage.

The house is what is known as a "plank house" constructed of vertically placed rough sawed pine boards; shingles on the outside and plaster within. There are no wainscotings, cornices or other decorations so typical of the sea captains' mansions. Living conditions for the Wormalls must have been simple and crude.

The property changed ownership seven times, between 1733 and 1796. Quite often the vocations of the grantors or grantees appear affixed in the deeds, to their names. A perusal of these 18th century deeds gives a true picture of the people who lived in this "back country" section of the town: yeomen (farmers), blacksmiths, cordwainers (shoemakers), and mariners, many of whom worked in the Duxbury shipyards.

So, quoting the deed of 1736, "a tract of land with its profits, privileges, commodities, rarities and appurtenances thereunto, excepting the fencing," has been owned for the past twenty-five years and is still owned by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Nash.

William B. Nash
Researcher